

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES
ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES
CHICANO STUDIES
NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

November 24, 2014

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Thomas Adams, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Instructional Quality Commission

Dear Dr. Thomas Adams:

I recently signed Bataan Legacy Historical Society's petition on change.org to implement AB 199 and revise section 51221.3 of the Education Code to include World War II in the Philippines. I signed it with the conviction that the Philippine and Filipino American experience is integral to U.S. history and the history of WWII. I begin my Filipino American history classes at UC Berkeley by emphasizing that the Philippine and Filipino American experience is one that every American, and not solely every Filipino or Filipino American, should learn. As an official colony of the United States for over four decades, this experience gives students a lens to view the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century rise of the United States as a world power. As a leading sending country of immigrants to the United States in the late- twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, the Philippines is central to understanding contemporary U.S. immigration. As a major contributor to the U.S. health care delivery system through the migration of Philippine-trained nurses and physicians, the Philippines has contributed to the health of this nation. The significance of the U.S.-Philippine historical relationship is perhaps most powerfully illustrated during World War II. The sacrifices of Filipino and Filipino American armed forces alongside American soldiers, and Filipino and American civilians under Japanese occupation in the Philippines, and their contributions to the U.S. military and the overall World War II effort constitute one of the most significant historical chapters of the history of the war. In honor of those sacrifices and in the spirit of a more historically accurate depiction of World War II, I urge the Instructional Quality Commission of the Curriculum Frameworks & Instructional Resources Division to implement AB199 in order to include the role of the Filipinos and Filipino-Americans during WWII as well as to revise Section 51221.3 of the Education Code to include the role of both the American and Filipino soldiers in World War II. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Ceniza Choy".

Catherine Ceniza Choy
Professor and Chair, Department of Ethnic Studies